

TOTAL FARM EXPENSES

Data on total farm expenses are available from a farm expenditure survey taken in the spring of 1956 by the Bureau of the Census and the Agricultural Marketing Service which has provided needed information on the production expenses of farmers. In this survey a sample of approximately 6,600 farmers answered detailed questions covering their farm expenses for the calendar year 1955. For an explanation of the sample design and procedure and for an estimate of the sampling error, see volume III, part 11.

One tabulation obtained from the survey was by type of farm and by selected economic classes of farms. The average per farm of the major categories of farm expenses by type of farm are shown in table 44. These farm expenses relate to 1955. Other data on farm and farm-operator characteristics contained in this report are from the 1954 Census of Agriculture and relate to 1954.

For this reason direct comparison of the two sets of data would not be meaningful. Also, the farm expenses obtained in the survey included expenses incurred for family living that ordinarily would not be charged against the farm business. (See footnotes to table 44.) In addition, the production expenses for cropper farms obtained in the survey were included in the economic class in which the landlord's home farm was tabulated.

Data from the survey are useful primarily in showing the relative magnitude of categories of farm expenses for different types and sizes of farms and the proportions these categories comprise of total farm expenses. These relationships may also be useful in examination of the specified expense items obtained by the 1954 Census of Agriculture. An attempt is made later in this report to indicate the extent to which the Census specified expense items are representative of total farm expenses for the different types and economic classes of farms.

TABLE 44.—CASH FARM EXPENDITURES: AVERAGE PER FARM BY TYPE OF FARM BY ECONOMIC CLASS, FOR THE UNITED STATES: 1955

Expenditure by economic class of farm	All commercial farms	Type of farm											Miscellaneous	
		Cash-grain	Cotton	Other field-crop	Vegetable	Fruit-and-nut	Dairy	Poultry	Live-stock other than dairy and poultry	General—				
										Primarily crop	Primarily live-stock	Crop and live-stock		
ALL CLASSES														
Total expenditures.....	Dollars 7,986	Dollars 6,797	Dollars 5,099	Dollars 4,923	Dollars 15,387	Dollars 10,948	Dollars 6,086	Dollars 10,817	Dollars 8,705	Dollars 7,242	Dollars 5,710	Dollars 5,525	Dollars 12,371	
Cash wages.....	764	466	1,101	958	4,227	3,228	444	429	504	1,273	251	393	4,414	
Machine hire and customwork.....	185	213	146	138	172	127	151	64	175	206	169	183	70	
Livestock and poultry purchased.....	763	569	182	140	149	142	322	1,380	1,929	331	406	510	111	
Feed for livestock and poultry.....	1,222	487	158	211	213	270	1,520	6,292	1,786	274	1,351	765	280	
Seeds, plants, and trees.....	244	310	177	271	966	213	171	76	228	366	193	237	1,746	
Commercial fertilizer and liming materials.....	385	459	359	550	1,515	747	254	131	346	653	265	372	514	
Petroleum products, farm business share ¹	602	833	491	486	905	627	511	410	626	713	563	585	789	
Repair and other operating costs for motor vehicles and farm machinery ²	434	645	356	328	747	492	352	220	463	460	362	417	380	
Marketing costs.....	331	187	416	284	2,741	1,620	297	192	239	443	212	230	921	
Miscellaneous current operating expense, not included elsewhere ³	488	448	387	382	1,328	1,343	451	432	541	671	389	385	988	
Property taxes, farm business share ⁴	227	276	74	114	466	393	228	149	318	183	219	101	309	
Interest, farm business share ⁵	162	173	121	107	225	171	167	141	215	136	127	133	151	
Construction and land improvement ⁶	373	356	242	301	879	521	338	419	461	417	323	356	755	
Purchase of motor vehicles, farm machinery and equipment ⁷	926	1,385	799	646	854	1,145	884	482	904	1,046	880	768	934	
CLASSES I AND II														
Total expenditures.....	18,352	12,871	16,243	26,231	34,376	24,545	16,356	25,287	20,791	22,223	12,912	12,309	24,976	
Cash wages.....	2,615	1,173	4,453	7,674	10,551	7,895	1,935	1,267	1,507	4,709	1,078	1,280	10,502	
Machine hire and customwork.....	304	335	450	585	342	201	230	107	271	735	218	290	48	
Livestock and poultry purchased.....	2,509	1,099	523	780	237	380	918	3,155	6,057	1,159	896	1,618	209	
Feed for livestock and poultry.....	3,336	860	295	607	340	481	5,042	15,502	4,241	532	3,243	1,064	180	
Seeds, plants, and trees.....	572	597	557	1,630	1,600	310	369	115	428	1,019	375	433	3,749	
Commercial fertilizer and liming materials.....	961	1,023	1,115	2,631	3,803	1,611	665	202	683	1,964	803	902	950	
Petroleum products, farm business share ¹	1,143	1,387	1,201	1,501	1,430	1,157	883	655	1,083	1,730	914	930	1,222	
Repair and other operating costs for motor vehicles and farm machinery ²	947	1,210	1,080	1,379	1,432	1,024	718	347	906	1,349	727	760	483	
Marketing costs.....	955	390	1,434	1,766	7,336	4,268	765	431	529	1,850	458	555	1,957	
Miscellaneous current operating expense, not included elsewhere ³	1,327	903	1,502	2,733	2,844	2,895	1,192	980	1,223	2,345	894	847	2,046	
Property taxes, farm business share ⁴	461	450	243	657	752	843	449	278	652	463	381	339	524	
Interest, farm business share ⁵	375	270	309	526	400	336	364	328	483	342	157	317	309	
Construction and land improvement ⁶	891	736	821	1,666	1,476	1,142	844	901	896	1,279	822	820	1,595	
Purchase of motor vehicles, farm machinery and equipment ⁷	1,926	2,438	2,020	2,096	1,743	1,960	1,982	1,019	1,742	2,747	1,946	1,554	1,192	
CLASSES III THROUGH VI														
Total expenditures.....	4,196	4,746	2,725	2,831	6,926	4,776	4,384	5,046	4,835	3,444	4,718	4,000	4,927	
Cash wages.....	290	236	496	297	1,409	1,109	197	94	227	402	137	194	819	
Machine hire and customwork.....	130	172	82	94	97	93	138	45	144	147	163	180	84	
Livestock and poultry purchased.....	315	377	109	87	110	31	223	672	580	121	338	262	53	
Feed for livestock and poultry.....	680	300	129	172	157	188	944	2,021	944	209	1,090	563	354	
Seeds, plants, and trees.....	160	212	96	138	683	169	138	60	163	201	168	102	564	
Commercial fertilizer and liming materials.....	237	267	199	346	496	354	136	103	295	332	191	264	250	
Petroleum products, farm business share ¹	464	645	321	387	671	386	449	312	477	455	515	507	533	
Repair and other operating costs for motor vehicles and farm machinery ²	303	454	202	225	442	251	291	170	318	236	312	340	319	
Marketing costs.....	172	110	199	138	604	418	220	97	145	86	178	157	310	
Miscellaneous current operating expense, not included elsewhere ³	273	295	129	152	651	495	328	211	319	246	319	279	362	
Property taxes, farm business share ⁴	150	217	38	61	338	188	191	98	200	112	197	158	182	
Interest, farm business share ⁵	107	140	67	65	106	97	123	66	127	85	123	91	58	
Construction and land improvement ⁶	237	227	119	167	612	239	255	226	318	198	255	252	258	
Purchase of motor vehicles, farm machinery and equipment ⁷	669	1,020	540	502	460	758	701	268	629	615	732	591	781	

¹ Expenditures minus tax refunds. Includes expenditures attributable to uses other than farm business.
² Includes repairs, replacement parts, accessories, registration fees and insurance on vehicles. Includes expenditures attributable to uses other than farm business.
³ Medicine, disinfectants, pesticides, electricity, telephone service, insurance, hand tools, and miscellaneous farm business expenses (management services, recordkeeping, legal fees, advertising expenses, etc.).
⁴ Includes some property taxes on furniture and other household goods attributable to family living expenses.
⁵ Includes interest on debt contracted for family living expenses.
⁶ Excludes expenditures by landlords, excludes expenditures for construction and repair of operator's dwelling except for multi-unit tenant farms.
⁷ Purchase cost minus value of trade-in and sales. Includes expenditures attributable to uses other than farm business.